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CONTACT: Marva Diaz
(916) 319-2022

Assemblywoman Sally Lieber Names María Marroquín Woman of the Year

Sacramento – In a ceremony today at the State Capitol, Assemblywoman Sally Lieber (D-Mountain View) honored María Marroquín as the 22nd Assembly District's "Woman of the Year." The ceremony was held to recognize an exemplary California woman from each Assembly District in the state.

"María Marroquín is an inspirational leader with a long history of hard-work and accomplishment," Lieber said. "It is my honor to pay tribute to such an exemplary woman."

María is the Director of the St. Joseph's the Worker Center, operated by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, benefiting the day laborers in Mountain View. Prior to assuming the responsibilities of Director of the St. Joseph's the Worker Center, María volunteered her time to the Center, arriving every morning to check on the day workers and offer emotional support. She often used her wages from her job as a housekeeper to purchase backed goods and hot coffee to offer solace.

Despite the demands of her own employment and family commitments, María has made time to reach out to day laborers on the street, checking on their safety and ensuring that they are aware of all services available to them.

During a recent legal struggle, María helped unite the workers and the Center with legal advocates at the Mexican American Legal Defense Fund. An activist and now a Center leader, she has committed herself to ensure that each worker is paid for his or her services and that the working conditions for day laborers are safe.

"As a vocal leader, she speaks passionately about the plight of workers at local government meetings and leads other workers to become involved in civic matters," said Lieber. "María is recognized by the community as a shining example of individual initiative, compassionate sensitivity, and the St. Joseph's the Worker Center's promise of a better life."

The floor ceremony for "Woman of the Year" was the centerpiece of a day-long celebration that included a morning reception hosted by Lt. Governor Cruz Bustamante and an afternoon tribute from First Lady Sharon Davis. State or legislative funds are not used to pay for the activities surrounding celebrating Assemblywoman Lieber's Woman of the Year.

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